

EXPLANATION

Surficial Deposits (Holocene-Pleistocene)	
Obs	Beach sand-marine last deposits of fine-to coarse-grained sand and gravel, may migrate seasonally.
Of	Alluvial fan-characteristic fan-cone shapes at the mouths of eroding stream canyons; includes debris fans.
Marine terrace deposits	
Qm1	Undifferentiated stream channel deposits: unconsolidated sediments in active channels and flood plains.
Qm2	Stream channel deposits: aggradation period 5 years or less.
Qr	River terrace deposits.
Qol	Older alluvium.

Overlap (Quaternary-Tertiary)

QTrs	Olson Ranch Formation-siltstone.
QTrm	Olson Ranch Formation-conglomerate.
QTrv	Olson Ranch Formation-undifferentiated Marine sandstone and conglomerate.

Gualala Block (Tertiary-Cretaceous)

Thu	Undifferentiated strata of Garman Ranch, Anchor Bay and Stewarts Point-sandstone, siltstone, claystone and conglomerate.
Tg	Garman Ranch Formation-marine sandstone and mudstone.
Tm	Montezuma Group-marine sandstone and shale.
Ra	Gualala Formation, Anchor Bay Member-sandstone, mudstone and conglomerate.
Rd	Gualala Formation, Stewarts Point Member-sandstone, conglomerate and mudstone.
Rub	Black Point Siltite.

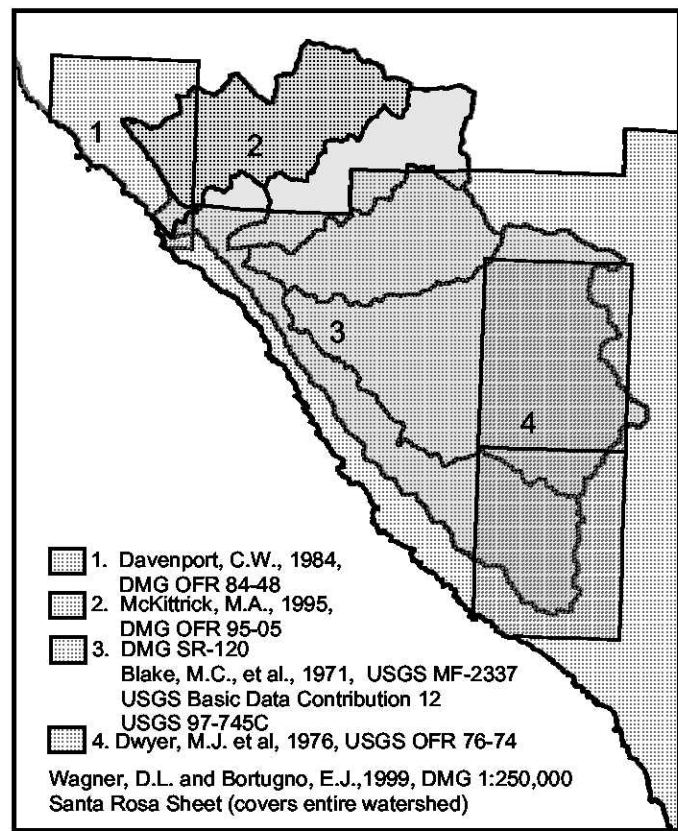
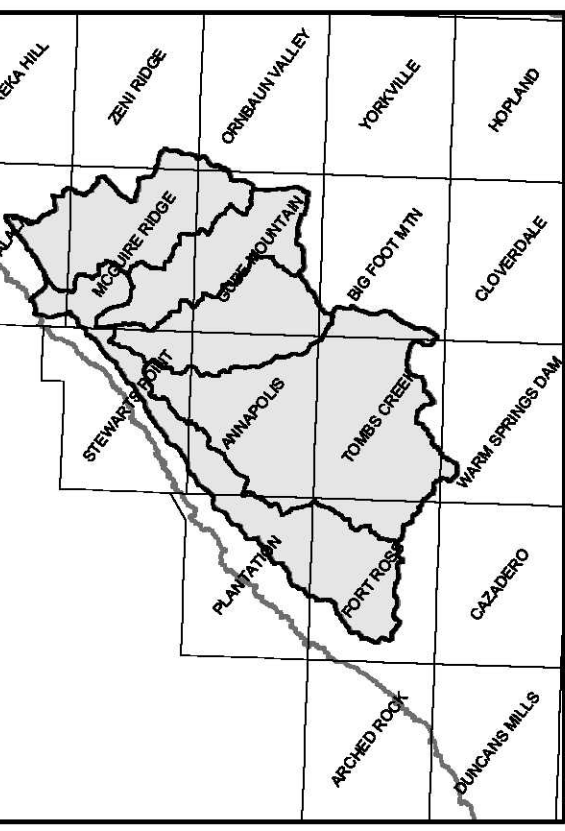
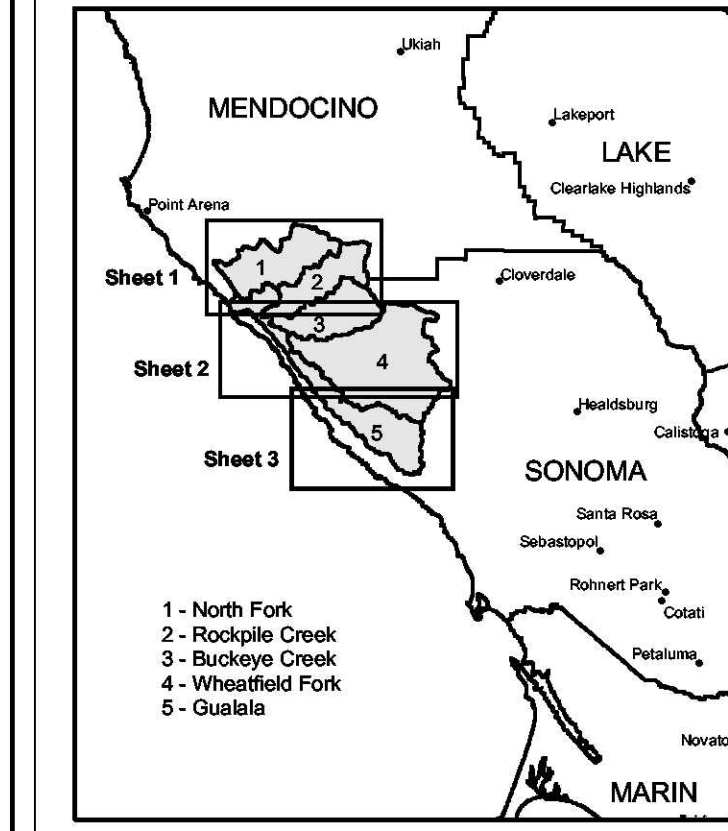
Undifferentiated Franciscan Complex (Cretaceous)	
Nbs	Sandstone.
Nbs	Sandstone.
Sp	Serpentine.
M	Migmatite.

Coastal Belt Franciscan, includes Coastal Terrane (Eocene-Early Cretaceous)	
Tbns	Coastal Belt Franciscan-marine sandstone.
Tbns	Coastal Belt Franciscan-marine siltstone.

Central Belt Franciscan, includes Central Terrane (Cretaceous)	
Kbns	Undifferentiated Central Belt Franciscan-siltstone.

Eastern Belt Franciscan, includes Yolla Bolly and Pickett Peak Terranes (Early Cretaceous-Late Jurassic)	
Wmgs	Melange.
Kbns	Central Belt Franciscan-melange; includes chert-rh, greenstone-gs, gneissic-rh, and sandstone-rs.

Great Valley Complex (Cretaceous)	
Lgms	Sandstone and claystone.



ROCK SLIDE: Slope movement with bedrock as its primary source material. This class of failure includes rotational and translational landslides; relatively cohesive slide masses with failure planes that are deep-seated in comparison to those debris slides of similar areal extent. The slide plane is curved in a rotational slide. Movement along a planar joint or bedding surface may be referred to as translational. Complex versions with combinations of rotational heads and translational movement or earthflow domes are common. "Y" indicates a scar; arrows show direction of movement; quartered where the presence of the slide is uncertain. Boundary is solid where historically active, dashed where dormant, quartered where uncertain.

EARTHFLOW: Slow to rapid movement of mostly fine-grained soil with some rocky debris in a semi-viscous, highly plastic state. After initial failure, the mass may flow or creep seasonally in response to changes in groundwater level. These types of slope failures often include complexes of related rotational slides and deeply incised gullies. Boundaries are usually indistinct. "CTF" indicates a scar; arrow indicates direction of movement; quartered where the presence of the slide is uncertain. Boundary is solid where historically active, dashed where dormant, quartered where uncertain.

DEBRIS SLIDE: Mass of unconsolidated rock, colluvium, and coarse-grained soil that has moved slowly to rapidly downslope along a relatively steep, shallow, transitional failure plane. Debris slides form steep, unvegetated scars in the head region and possibly irregular, hummocky deposits in the toe region. Scars commonly reveal and remain unvegetated for several seasons depending on slope aspect. Quartered where the presence of the slide is uncertain. Boundary is solid where historically active, dashed where dormant, quartered where uncertain.

DEBRIS FLOW/TORRENT TRACK: Long stretches of bare ground that have been scoured and eroded to bedrock by extremely rapid movement of water-saturated debris. Debris flows are commonly triggered by debris sliding in the source area during high intensity rains. Debris is often deposited downslope as a tangled mass of organic material in a matrix of rock and soil; debris may be reworked and incorporated into subsequent events; lack of vegetation indicates recent activity. Quartered where the presence of the slide is uncertain. Boundary is solid where historically active, dashed where dormant, quartered where uncertain.

SMALL LANDSLIDE: Landslide too small to delineate at 1:24,000 scale (typically less than 1/5 acre in area or less than 100 feet in length).

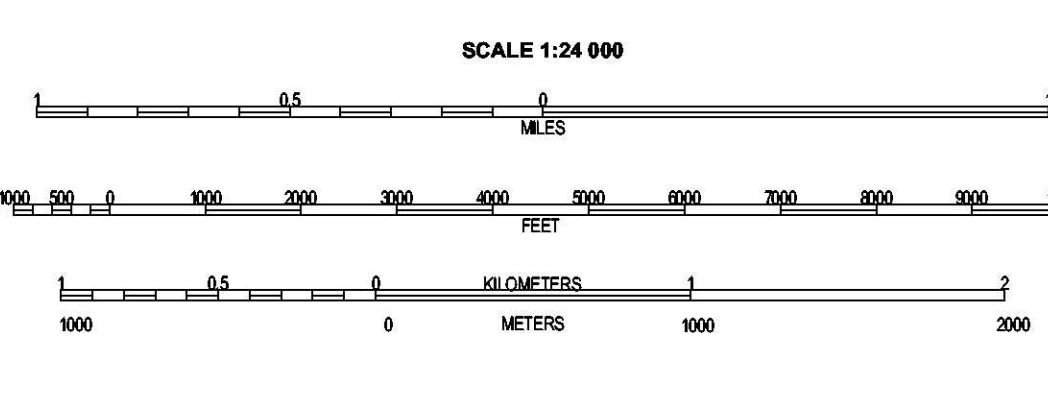
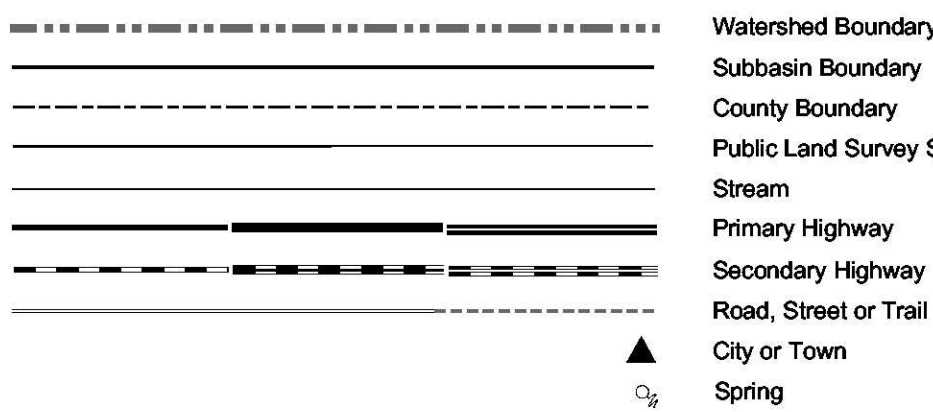
DISRUPTED GROUND: Irregular ground surface caused by complex landsliding processes resulting in features that are indistinguishable in 1:24,000 scale to delineate individually at 1:24,000 scale; also may include areas affected by downslope creep, expansive soils, and/or gully erosion. Boundaries are usually indistinct.

DEBRIS SLIDE SLOPE/SOURCE AREA: A geomorphic feature characterized by steep, usually well vegetated slopes that appear to have been scoured by numerous debris slides and debris flows. Water marks (flooded areas) of these slopes are often highly irregular and may include soil and colluvium near debris slides. The debris slides are often debris slides and debris flows. Slopes near the angle of repose may be relatively stable except where weak bedding planes, bedrock joints and fractures parallel the slope.

RIVER GORGE: A geomorphic feature consisting of steep slopes adjacent to channels. The gorge typically is created by accelerated downcutting in response to regional uplift. It is defined as an area of streambank between the channel and the first break in slope. Line is quartered where uncertain, or broken into segments to represent a stretch of discontinuous inner gorge too small to accurately represent at 1:24,000 scale. One-sided hatchures indicate inner gorge on one side of channel only; hatchures point downstream.

GULLY: Distinct, narrow channels formed by erosion of soil or soft rock material by running water. Channels are larger and deeper than rills and usually carry water only during and immediately after heavy rain or following the melting of ice or snow. Arrows point downhill; line is quartered where uncertain.

Lithologic Contact: Solid where location is certain, dashed where approximately located or inferred, dotted where concealed, and quartered where continuation or existence is uncertain.
Fault: Solid where location is certain, dashed where approximately located or inferred, dotted where concealed, and quartered where continuation or existence is uncertain.
Lineament: Linear feature of unknown origin noted on aerial photographs.



GEOLOGIC AND GEOMORPHIC FEATURES RELATED TO LANDSLIDING
GUALALA RIVER WATERSHED, SONOMA AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA
PLATE 1, SHEET 3 OF 3 (SOUTHERN PORTION)

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Digital Representation by Sandra M. Summers and Peter D. Roffers

GEOLOGICAL NOTES

The Gualala River system and surrounding topography evolved in response to rapid geologic changes along the west coast of North America over the past 30 million years, and especially in the last 5 million years. The drainage networks evolved along with the changing landscape. The drainage network of the Gualala River is bedrock controlled and records the major geologic changes that took place. The landscape continues to change most notably by mass wasting. Mass wasting and erosion reflect local geomorphic conditions, which in turn affect aquatic habitat conditions.

In the Gualala watershed, the distribution of landslides, channel types, and sediment is primarily controlled by distribution and physical properties of the various geologic formations that form the foundation of the watershed. Understanding these background relationships can aid in the identification of erosive processes, such as channel change.

Over the past 5-20 million years, much of the region was uplifted. As it was raised and tilted, the rivers incised into bedrock in many places. Large portions of the Gualala River system are bedrock controlled. The bedrock is composed of several rock formations of very different properties that have been juxtaposed in a complicated pattern through multiple generations of folding, faulting, uplift, and subsidence - many of which remain evident in the landscape. The resistance of the bedrock to erosion is primarily variable and depends in many ways on the rock composition and the degree of deformation. As the bedrock was uplifted, crushed, and redistributed along active faults, the Gualala River system concurrently evolved. The network of stream channels developed in response to the distribution of rock types, and the distribution of rock types, and the degree of deformation. Many watercourses lengthened laterally along the weakened rock within fault zones. Many of the streams in the Gualala River watershed and surrounding areas are clearly fault controlled. At the fault, with the exception of the San Andreas Fault are now considered inactive. The Tonto Creek Fault System was probably active during the Pliocene (10,000 - 1.1 million years ago).

The present landscape in the Gualala River watershed continues to change through the processes of erosion and mass wasting in ways that force the stream channels to continually adjust. The timescale over which these changes occur vary from years to millennia. The forces of erosion work against the weaker rocks moving from down into the stream channels in the form of landslides. Streams erode into bedrock forming canyons. The local strength of the bedrock determines the steepness of the canyons. Over the long term, the canyon slopes steepen to a threshold at which there is a quasi-equilibrium between continued deepening and mass wasting. For example, steep canyons form where bedrock is harder and resistant. When uplift and incision outpaced mass wasting, the slopes are oversteepened. Steeper slopes are common in the headwaters of the deep canyons in the watershed as equilibrium is gradually established. In many areas, large landslides are obstacles that cause the streams to change course and grade. Even in areas where faulting and landsliding are dormant, the resultant distribution of varying rock types still determines stream channel processes.

Historically active landslides (movement within the last 150 years) comprise approximately 10% of the watershed, while dormant landslides constitute approximately another 2%. Large earthflows (approximately one-third of which are historically active) and gullies occur dominantly east of the Tonto Creek Fault zone and in the northern portion of the watershed. Gullies typically erode the surface of the bedrock. Rock slides, debris slides, and debris flows occur dominantly in the north of coastal terrane where slopes are steep. As in the North Fork watershed and the upper reaches of the main stem, landslides and debris flows are common in the North Fork watershed. The Gualala River Watershed Mapping project, which includes the Gualala River Watershed Mapping project, provides additional information including landsliding and mass wasting processes and the relationship to sediment in the stream channels of the Gualala River watershed.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- The landslides and geomorphic features were mapped from the following sets of aerial photographs: 1984 WAC aerial photographs, nominal scale 1:31,000; 1989 WAC aerial photographs (Sonoma County), nominal scale 1:24,000; and 2000 WAC aerial photographs (Mendocino County), nominal scale 1:24,000. Field verification of landside and geomorphic features was very limited and mapping relied primarily on interpretation of aerial photographs.
- The geology depicted on this map was modified from several sources ranging in scale from 1:24,000 to 1:250,000 (see references). The source of the majority of the geology for the watershed (Sonoma County portion) was mapped at a scale of 1:62,500 (Huffman and Armstrong, 1980). Although the geology is presented in this map at a scale of 1:24,000, the detail and accuracy of the geologic data are limited to the spatial resolution of the 1:62,500 scale (and other scales of the source data) in which the digital database was originally compiled.
- Landslides shown on this map have been divided into groups based on the clarity of their morphology and inferred type of movement. The landslides are also classified according to the certainty of their existence as determined by analyses of aerial photographs. The various landslide designations are not intended to imply that the landslides are necessarily active. See Plate 2 for relative landslide potential of the area.
- The scale of this map limits the delineation of some features, and the map should not be substituted for site-specific studies.
- Information on this map is not sufficient to serve as a substitute for the geologic and geotechnical site investigations required under Chapters 7.5 and 7.8 of Division 2 of the California Public Resources Code.
- Historical mapping by DMG (Davisport, 1984, Open-File Report 84-48) was considered and incorporated using current interpretive protocols for identifying and classifying geomorphic features and/or landslides. Historical mapping added directly to the Gualala River watershed database is referenced in the electronic database with a citation to the North Coast Watershed Mapping, digital compilation DMG CD 99-002 (DMG, 1999), which includes Open-File Report 84-48.
- All small landslides (depicted on the map as points) from the 1984, 1989/2000 aerial photograph sets and DMG Open-File Report 84-48 (Davisport, 1984) are shown on the map.
- Digital data shown on this map as well as additional landside and geomorphic data are available from the following sources: on the CGS website at www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs, on compact disc from CGS (CD-ROM 2002-08), or on the North Coast Watershed Assessment website at www.ncoawatershed.ca.gov.

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GUALALA AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS BY YEAR

EROS Data Center, U.S. Geological Survey, various dates, Digital Orthophoto Quarterquadrangles, 10 meter resolution.

EROS Data Center, U.S. Geological Survey, various dates, Digital Elevation Models, 30 meter resolution.

WAC, Inc., 1984, black and white aerial photographs, Right 14, frames 153-164, 190-205, 213-225, 240-250, Right 15, frames 125-133, 191-197, Right 20, nominal scale 1:31,000, dated April 20, 1984.

WAC, Inc., 1989, color aerial photographs for Sonoma County, Right 10, frames 2-5, 13-16, 21-26, 31-41, 42-41, 83-88, 137-150, 157-175, 177-192, nominal scale 1:24,000, dated April 13, 1989.

WAC, Inc., 2000, black and white aerial photographs for Mendocino County, Right 3, frames 160-167, 168-180, 215-218, nominal scale 1:24,000, dated April 2, 2000.



CONTOUR INTERVAL: 40 FEET

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10

DATA SOURCES
Watershed Boundaries
Photography
Topography
Public Land Survey System
County Boundaries

1:24,000 California Watershed Map (CALWATER v.2.3a)
1:24,000 USGS D.G. and USGS C.F.P.
1:24,000 USGS D.G.
1:24,000 USGS D.G.
1:100,000 USGS D.G.

www.conservation.ca.gov/cgvs

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